

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 /057 W

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O R 261717Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8974

INFO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACT IN NORTH-RHINE

WESTPHALIA (NRW)

REF: DUSSELDORF 0317

1. AT LUNCHEON MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 25, NRW MINISTER-PRESIDENT KUEHN SAID THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED THAT NEXT TERRORIST ACTS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN NRW. IT WAS CLEAR HE SAID FROM THE LORENZ KIDNAPPING THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PRESENTLY UNDERWAY IN NRW. HE REMARKED THAT THE RECENT THEFT OF POLICE UNIFORMS FROM A POLICE INSTALLATION IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, WHICH TOOK PLACE AFTER THE CARNIVAL SEASON (THUS REDUCING THE POSSIBILITY OF LESS SINISTER MOTIVES) MAY BE RELATED TO TERRORISTS' INTENTIONS. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS, HE COMMENTED, HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT LEADING PUBLIC FIGURES BUT IN A MODERN FREE SOCIETY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE ABSOLUTE SECURITY FOR ALL POTENTIAL TARGETS. IN THIS REGARD, HE REMARKED, THAT IN THE DEBRIEFING FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE, LORENZ SAID THE KIDNAPPERS TOLD HIM THAT IN THE FUTURE THEY WOULD

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NOT RESTRICT THEIR TARGETS TO POLITICIANS BUT MIGHT ACT AGAINST BANKERS, INDUSTRIALISTS OR JOURNALISTS.

2. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH APPROPRIATE FEDERAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND THEY ARE UNAWARE OF ANY HARD INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED TERRORIST ACTIONS IN NRW OVER EASTER WEEK-END. THEY ARE CHECKING FURTHER INTO THE REPORT AND HAVE PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED. SINCE SENDING THE REFERENCED CABLE, THE CONGEN SPOKE WITH THE POLICE PRESIDENT IN DUSSELDORF WHO SAID THAT NRW AUTHORITIES HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

3. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS DURING EASTER PERIOD INCLUDE FOLLOW-UP CARS AND THE POSTING OF PLAIN-CLOTHES POLICEMEN IN THE HOTELS WHERE THE CONGRESSMEN ARE STAYING. IT IS ALSO STANDARD GERMAN SECURITY PROCEDURE TO POST PLAIN-CLOTHES POLICE AT FUNCTIONS FOR VISITING DIGNITARIES HOSTED BY THE GERMANS.
HILLENBRAND

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